

28th August 1926]

### APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 2410 asked by Mr. J. A. Saldanha at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th August 1926, page 320 supra.]

**G.O. No. 917, Public, dated 16th September 1903.**

In supersession of previous orders on the subject, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to prescribe the following rules relating to the observance of holidays in public offices, including holidays notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act:—

(1) All public offices will be closed on days notified as holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

(2) The grant of every holiday is subject to the condition that arrangements will be made for the despatch of emergent business.

(3) A Government servant who is called on to attend office on a holiday except as a punishment, should be granted another day in its place when opportunity offers. If possible, a Government servant of the religious persuasion which observes a holiday should not be called upon to work on that day.

(4) The closing of public offices in the Presidency town, in the case of holidays which are not notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act, will be subject to the condition that the Sea Customs office and the Reserve and Currency departments of the Accountant-General's office shall remain open for the transaction of commercial business. In the General Stamp office the rule will be that, except when more than two holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act occur consecutively, the office shall never be wholly closed for more than two consecutive days. Whenever, therefore, a holiday not notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act precedes or follows or falls between two or more holidays under that Act, including Sundays, the Stamp office will be opened on that day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. In the case of the two gazetted office holidays at Christmas which are both preceded and followed by holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, the effect of this rule will be that the Stamp office will be opened from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on each of those two days.

(5) The Christmas holidays will extend from the 24th December (or from the 23rd if the 24th is a Sunday) to the 1st January (or to the 2nd if the 1st is a Sunday). Of these days, the 25th December and the 1st January are already holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act. The remaining days to be notified under the Act will be the 26th, the 27th, the 30th and the 31st December.

(6) The Easter holidays will extend from Good Friday to Easter Monday. Good Friday is already a holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act, and the Saturday before Easter and Easter Monday will in future be notified as holidays under the Act.

(7) Whit Monday and the Tuesday following will no longer be holidays in public offices or under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

(8) The day to be notified as a holiday under the Act in honour of the birthday of His Majesty the King will be fixed each year by the Government of India.

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2. A statement \* of the holidays to be observed in public offices and to be notified under the Negotiable Instruments Act is appended to this order. All heads of offices will be authorized to grant, in addition, two half-holidays in the year, either for the whole of their establishments or for particular sects. The grant of other holidays or half-holidays without the permission of Government is prohibited.

\* Not attached.

(True extract)

G. S. FORBES,  
Acting Chief Secretary.

